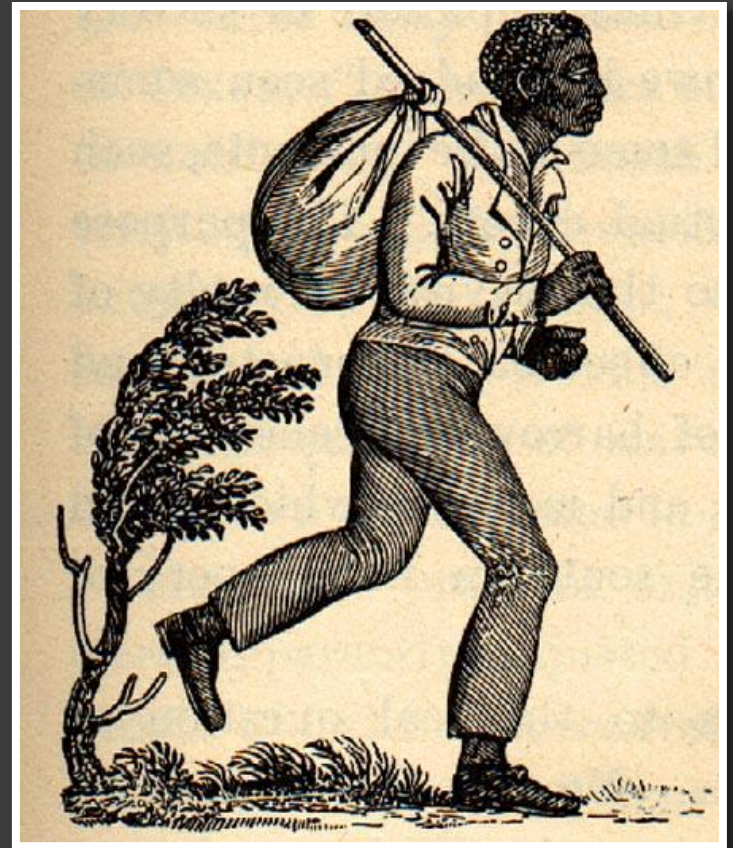


SLAVE REBELLION, FUGITIVE LITERATURE, & THE FORCE OF LAW

Prof. Jeffrey Hole
Department of English



OVERVIEW OF SEMINAR:

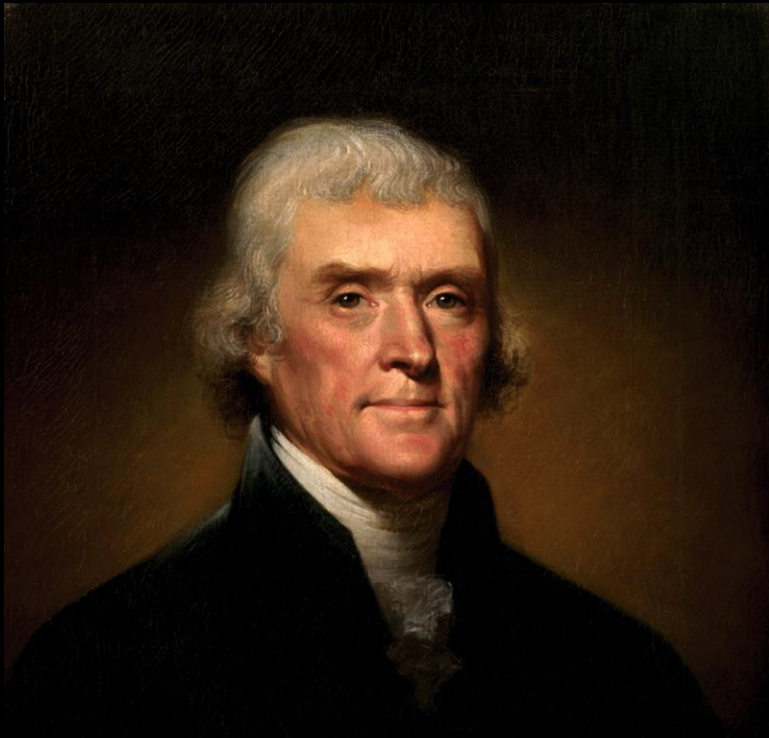
1. Contextualize the development of fugitive slave law.

OVERVIEW OF SEMINAR:

2. Recall how Fugitive Slave Law, especially after 1850, coincided with an expansion of US state power—forms of enforcement, policing, and martial or military force.

OVERVIEW OF SEMINAR:

**3. Examine how literature
responded to fugitive slave law.**



When Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, he owned 175 slaves.

US Constitution, Article IV, Section 2

-- Fugitive Slave Clause (1787)

No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

US Constitution, Article IV, Section 2

-- Fugitive Slave Clause (1787)

. . . but shall be delivered up . . .

How?

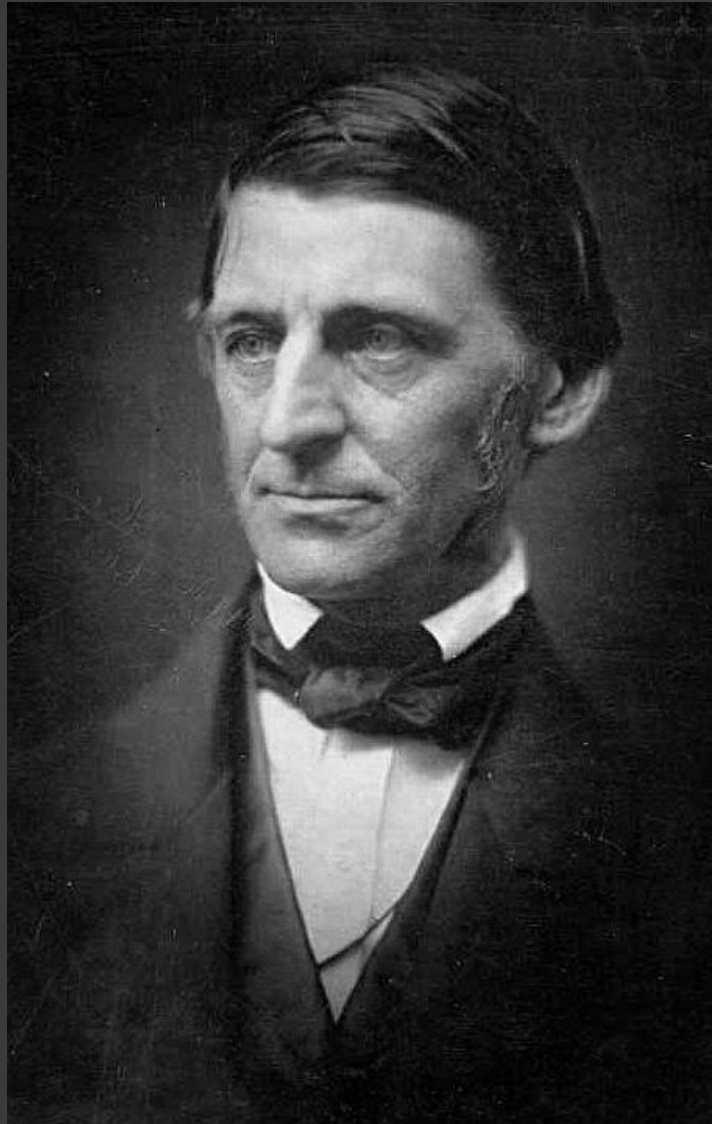
Fugitive Slave Act of 1793

“An Act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters”

Fugitive Slave Act

1850

Ralph Waldo Emerson



“Now I have lived all my life without suffering any known inconvenience from American slavery. I never saw it; never heard the whip; I never felt the check on my free speech and action; until the other day when Mr. Webster by his personal influence brought the Fugitive Slave law on the country”



Leaves
of
Grass.

Brooklyn, New York:
1855.

1712 - New York Slave Revolt

1739 - Stono Rebellion

1791–1804 - Haitian Revolution

1800 - Gabriel Prosser

1822 - Denmark Vesey

1831 - Nat Turner's rebellion

Slave Ship Revolts & Cases:

The Tryal (1805)

The Comet (1830),

The Encomium (1832)

The Enterprise (1835)

The Hermosa (1840)

The Amistad (1839)

The Creole (1841)



Nat Turner

Film – *Birth of a Nation* (2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezWiUTXB11A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIlUerVomDE&t=11s>

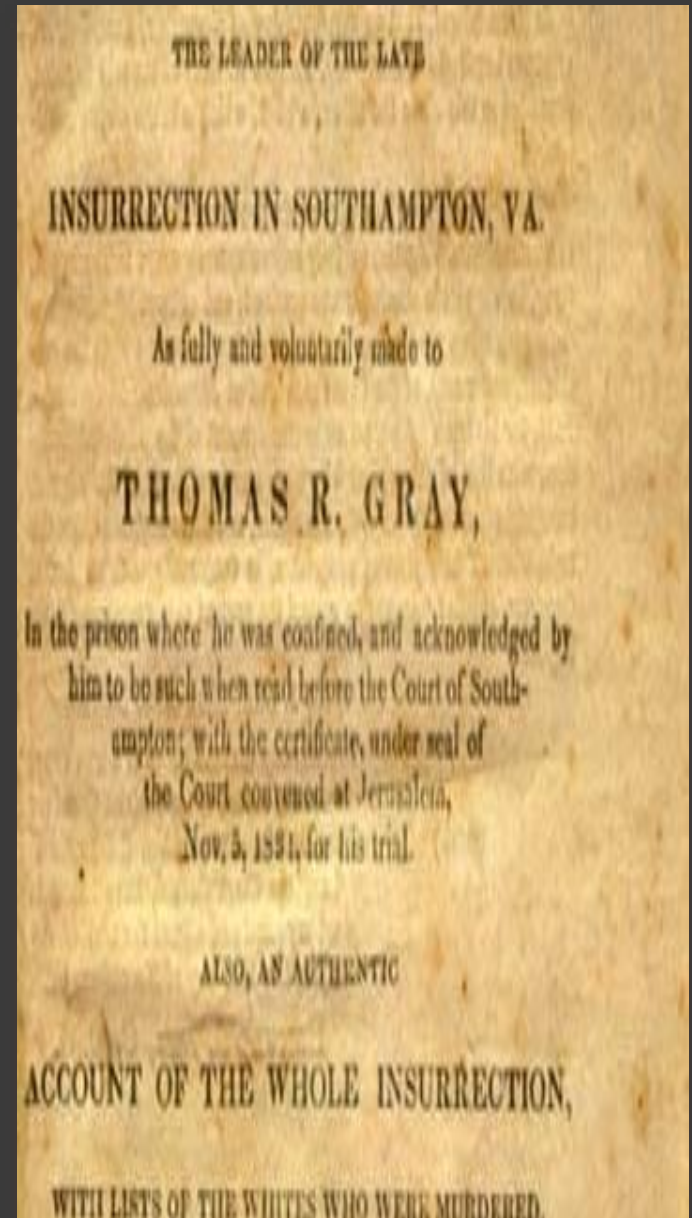


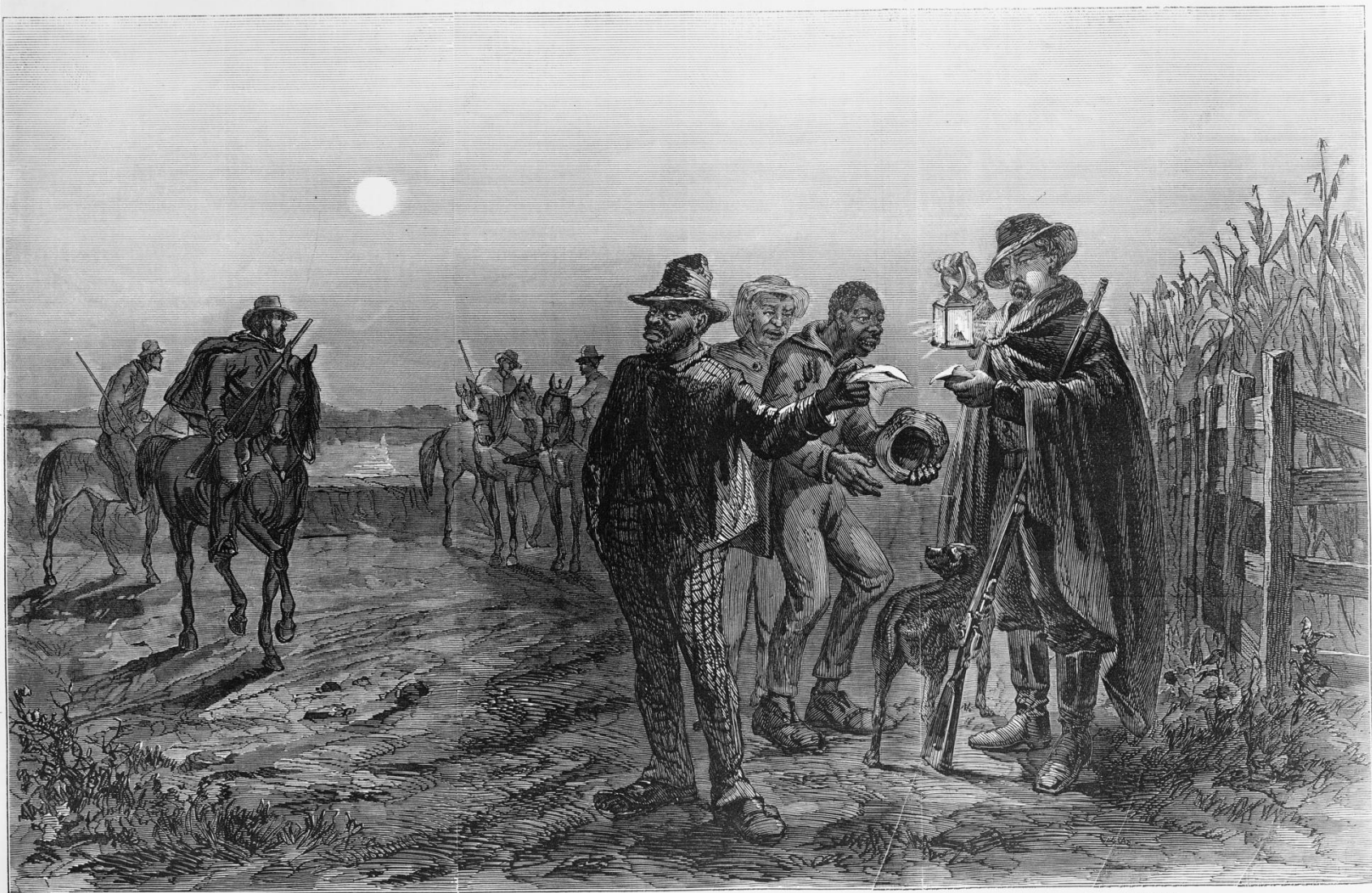
Discovery of Nat Turner.

**THE
CONFESSIONS
OF
NAT TURNER, THE LEADER
OF THE LATE
INSURRECTION IN
SOUTHAMPTON, VA.**

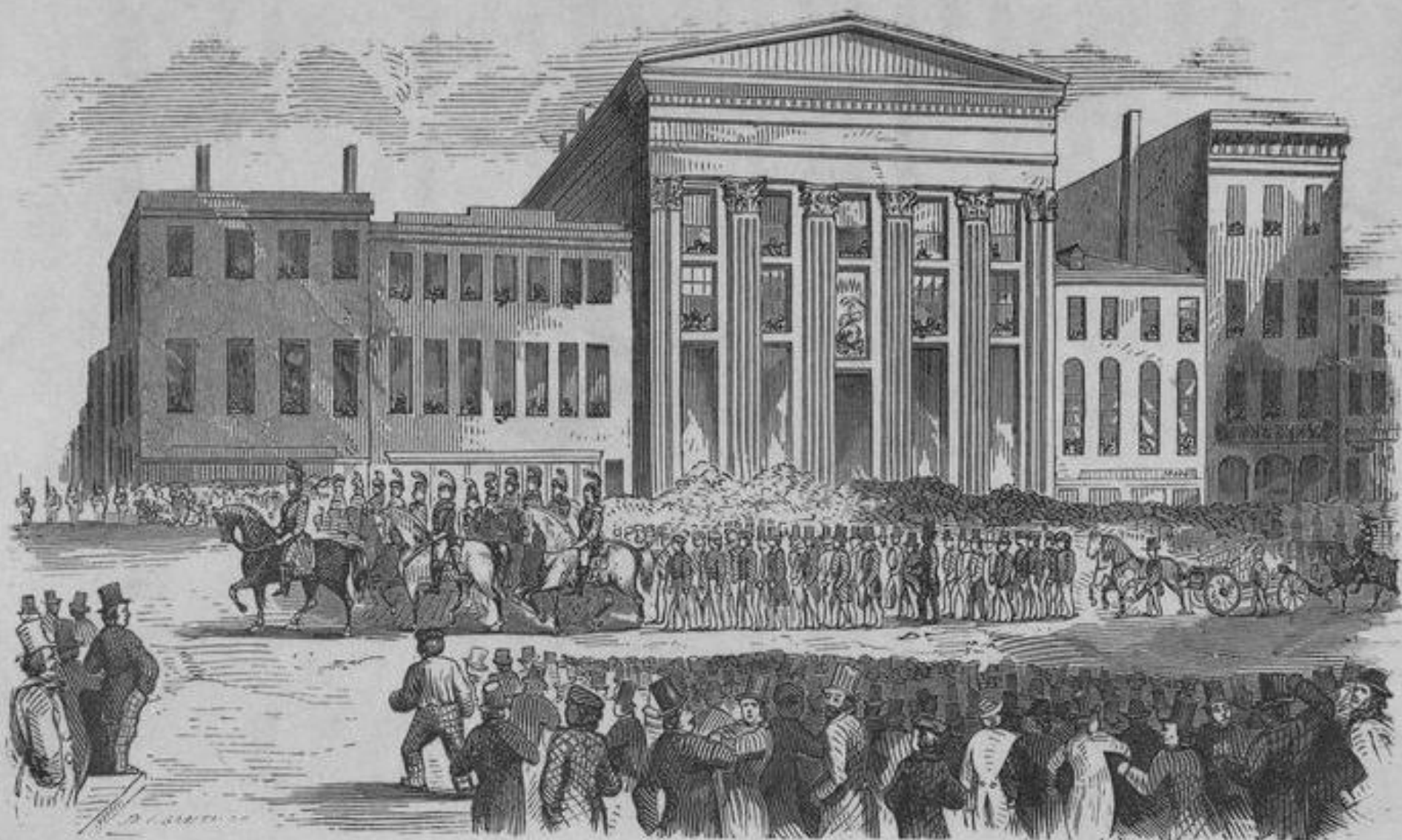
As fully and voluntarily made to
THOMAS R. GRAY

Baltimore:
**PUBLISHED BY THOMAS R.
GRAY.**
Lucas & Deaver, print.
1831.





THE PLANTATION POLICE OR HOME-GUARD EXAMINING NEGRO PASSES ON THE LEVEE ROAD BELOW NEW ORLEANS. FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, F. B. SCHILL.



MARSHAL'S POSSE WITH BURNS MOVING DOWN STATE STREET.

LIFE
OF
WILLIAM GRIMES,
THE
RUNAWAY SLAVE.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.



New York:
1825.

“If it were not for the stripes on my back which were made while I was a slave, I would in my will leave my skin as a legacy to the government, desiring that it might be taken off and made into parchment, and then bind the constitution of glorious, happy and *free* America. Let the skin of an American slave bind the charter of American liberty!”

Life of William Grimes, The Runaway Slave (1825, 1855)



Frederick Douglass

NARRATIVE
OF THE
LIFE
OF
FREDERICK DOUGLASS,
AN
AMERICAN SLAVE.

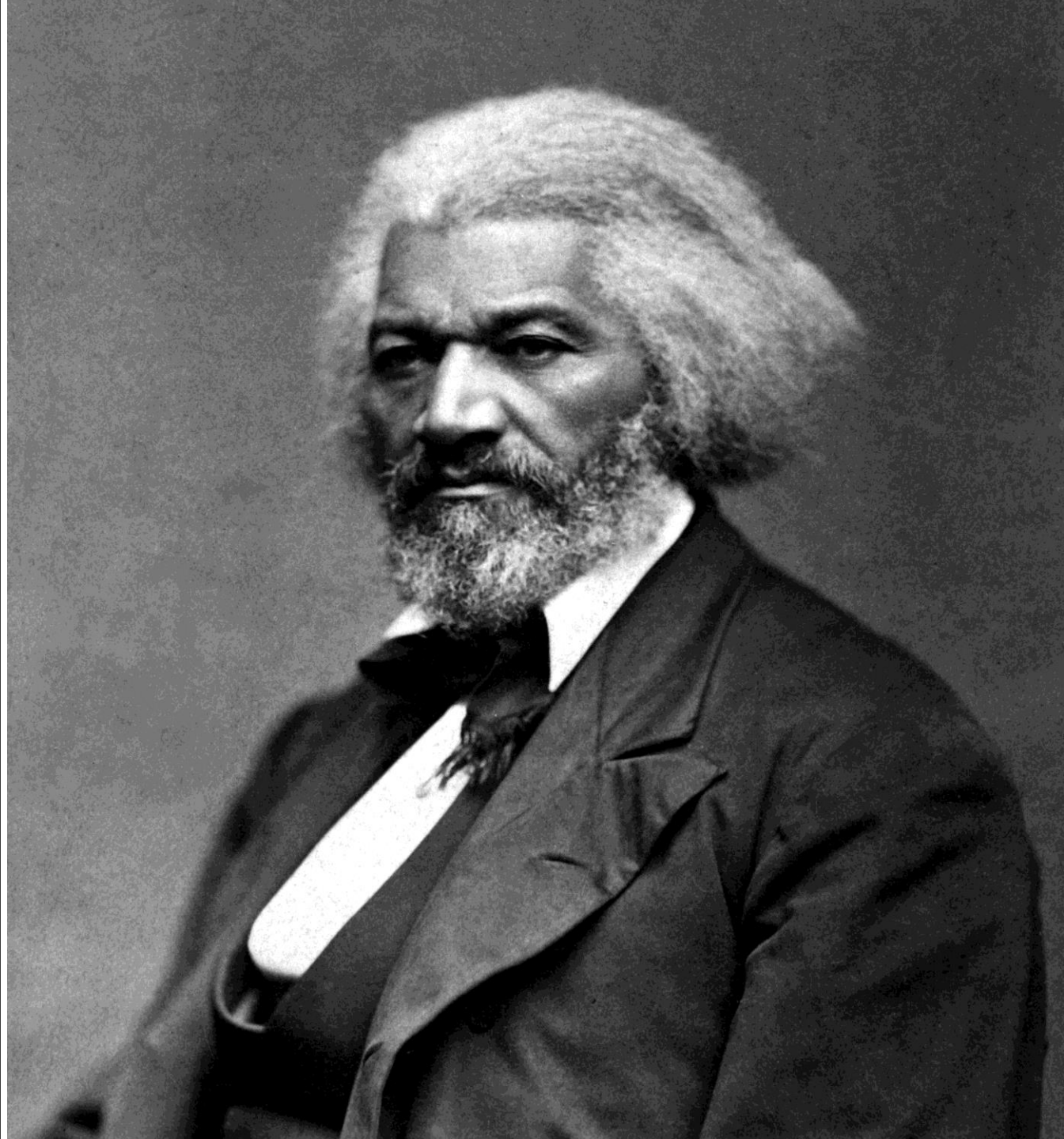
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED AT THE ANTI-SLAVERY OFFICE,

No. 25 CORNHILL.

1845.





Ellen & William Craft,

Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom
(1860)

Race, Gender, & Class

“Prima facie evidence”

“At first look; on the face of it”

